

ALEXANDRIA COMMISSION ON HIV/AIDS
MINUTES
April 18, 2022
6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kristin Donley, Nicole Hutchinson, Pablo Moulden, Gerald Padmore, Andrew Torre

AHD STAFF: Nechelle Terrell

VIRTUAL: Arion Lillard-Green, Chennel Hill-Welbon

ABSENT: Jon Scarffe (Excused)

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was officially called to order by Commissioner Arion Lillard-Green, Chair, at 6:54 p.m. when a quorum was present.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

Commissioner and staff provided introductions in person and virtually.

III. REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF APRIL MINUTES

The minutes from the March meeting were distributed and reviewed. Commissioner Pablo Moulden Nechelle noted the minutes erroneously listed guest who attended the previous meeting. Correction noted. Commissioner Andrew Torre moved to accept the minutes with the correction. Commissioner Gerald Padmore second the motion. The minutes passed unanimously.

IV. 2022 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES DISCUSSION

The commission reviewed National HIV/AIDS Awareness observed throughout the year and agreed to host an event, presentation or other awareness activity in recognition. Awareness days for the remainder of the year include National HIV Testing Day (June 27), National HIV and Aging Awareness Day (September 18), National Gay Men's Awareness Day (September 27), National Latino HIV Awareness Day (October 15) and World AIDS Day (December 1). Commissioners were encouraged to assist with taking the lead on an event or recognition effort for each of these days. Arion agreed to get a speaker to present for National HIV and Aging Awareness Day.

Commissioners agreed to continue participation or collaborate with other groups and events from past years. Commissioner Padmore stated Inova Juniper welcomes commissioner participation and collaboration as a team for Whitman Walker Clinic's "Walk to End HIV" in October/November of each year.

Nechelle informed the commission that she received an email from the organizers of "Mom Demand Action" to see if the commission wishes to participate this year. In past years, ACOHA has participated and/or supported the Vigil held in Market Square on the anniversary of the Pulse Night Club in June.

The commission discussed ways of keeping Alexandria City Council and the community informed of events, statistics and trends in HIV/AIDS, policies to follow

and other outreach efforts. Commissioner Andrew Torre agreed to help with creating a “one page” information sheet to distribute. Commissioner Nicole Hutchinson agreed to work with Nechelle on keeping the commission website updated. Nechelle stated she continues to update and post articles of interest on the ACOHA Facebook page and encouraged commissioners to “like” the page.

Other topics or presentation to include in future meetings agendas were housing topics to include HOPWA information; Alexandria City Public Schools HIV Education; updates from Echo Virginia on criminalization laws; and HIV, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Awareness and other trends in HIV/AIDS topics.

Nechelle noted that National HIV Testing Day is June 27. Ideas for testing at previous locations (Brent Place and Alley Cat) were possible suggestions for a 2022 event. Commissioner Chennel Hill-Welbon offered to check with Safeway about donating gift cards as testing incentives. Additional details will be provided at the next meeting.

V. COMMISSIONER/AGENCY UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Inova Juniper

Gerald reported that Inova Juniper has a grant with Neighborhood Health Services focusing on the African American and Latinx communities in Alexandria and Arlington. They will target churches, barbershops and other businesses and organizations frequented by those populations. Neighborhood Health will focus on the Latino and East African communities.

Gerald also informed the commission that Inova Juniper has a new Director as of March 2022.

Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS)

Kristin reported that ACPS has approval to have Health and Physical Education (PE) teachers teach FLE [Family Life Education] at the elementary level. Kristen is creating a 3-part training course requiring the teachers to take to prepare for teaching the curriculum.

Neighborhood Health Services

Commissioner Andrew Torre informed the commission that NHS Services are still going with some staff working from home and working in the office.

Commission for Women

Commissioner Nicole Hutchinson informed the commission that they are currently trying to rebrand the CFW. They have created “one pagers” to offer City Council information on current issues and keep them informed.

NovaSalud, Inc.

Commissioner Pablo Moulden reminded commissioners that NovaSalud, Inc. will host “Pride Thursdays” beginning on April 21, from 4 – 7 p.m. Free HIV/STI testing and referrals will be offered.

Announcements

Chennel informed the commission that the Safeway store in Washington, DC has PrEP and PEP on hand. Virginia clients are welcomed. They also make sure HIV patients are up today with vaccines and stay adherent with their medications.

Chennel also stated she could possibly get Safeway to donate gift cards to offer as incentives for any HIV Testing Day events.

Arion informed the commission that Bob Whitman has resigned from the commission effective immediately. Commissioners are encouraged to assist with trying to fill current vacancies.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.